Our Docket No.: 01-00007 Inventors: Black et al. Serial No.: 10/809,214

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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete the abstract on page 45 of the application and insert therefore:

The present invention provides a probe composition, including (a) a substrate; (b) a probe molecule attached to the substrate; and (c) a stabilization polymer layer on the substrate, wherein the [said] stabilization polymer layer coats the probe molecule. Also provided are methods for making and shipping a solid-phase probe having a stabilization polymer layer.